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# UNDERSTANDING AL-SHABAAB: CLANS, ISLAM, AND INSURGENCY IN KENYA

David M. Anderson\* & Jacob McKnight\*\*

\* Professor in African History, History Department, Humanities Building, University Way, University of Warwick, Coventry CV2 7AL. d.m.anderson@warwick.ac.uk

\*\* Post-doctoral Researcher at the Oxford African Health Systems Collaboration (OHSCAR), University of Oxford. jacobmcknight@gmail.com

**Abstract:** *As Harakat al-Shabaab Mujahideen develop more nuanced methods against its enemies, Kenya has become the principal target of their attacks. Kenya now faces an insurgency within its own borders. This article challenges the assumption that al-Shabaab's Somali nationalism and cultural practice will prevent it from successfully extending its authority into Kenya. We examine clan and Islam as these affect al-Shabaab's insurgency, and especially the capacity to gain recruits in Kenya. Al-Shabaab is both flexible and responsive in its handling of clan relations and of Islamic theology. Recent developments in the movement's strategy suggest it can exploit the social and economic exclusion of Kenya Muslim communities to draw them into insurgency. In seeking to remove al-Shabaab from southern Somalia, the Kenya Defence Forces thus appear to have opened the door to a new conflict within Kenya's borders.*

**Key words:** al-Shabaab, Somalia, Kenya, clans, Islam, insurgency, al-Hijra

## The Problem

The killing of Ahmed Abdi Godane on 1 September 2014<sup>1</sup> is an important moment in the short but bloody history of the Harakat al-Shabaab Mujahideen – an organisation which has been a major driver of eastern Africa's regional politics since 2006. This *Salafist jihadi* Islamic movement, always drawing deeply on its Somali nationalist roots, has managed several transformations since it first emerged as an urban militia to defend the Islamic Courts Union in Mogadishu.<sup>2</sup> Driven from the city by the Ethiopian invasion, al-Shabaab went first into the rural areas of central Somalia, and then migrated south, chased there by its enemies. Consolidating there to command many rural towns and villages in Jubaland and along the lower Shebelle valley, building alliances with local sheikhs and their militias along the way, al-Shabaab took control of the port-city of Kismayu in 2008. Though it struggled to maintain territorial and political dominance in parts of central Somalia, al-Shabaab's authority remained largely unchallenged in the south, from where it continued to pose a threat to Mogadishu's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) after the Ethiopian retreat.<sup>3</sup>

Then, in 2010, al-Shabaab's regional impact heightened with the infamous "World Cup bombings" in Kampala. Seen to indicate that the internationalist *jibadi* element within al-Shabaab was in the ascendancy, this dramatic act garnered a regional response, the intensity of which has grown since 2011.<sup>4</sup> Pushed on by a vengeful Ugandan President Museveni, by September 2014 the Africa Union forces fighting al-Shabaab as part of the Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) comprised 22,000 soldiers from Uganda, Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. The Ugandans mounted their first significant push against al-Shabaab in April 2011, forcing them out of Mogadishu by August, this being followed in October 2011 with Kenya's invasion of southern Somalia, supported by the Ethiopians one month later.<sup>5</sup>

Though it would take the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) nearly a full year to capture Kismayu, al-Shabaab immediately retaliated by taking the struggle back into Kenya. Grenade and bombs attacks were launched within the first week of the invasion, and have now become a regular feature of what has turned into an al-Shabaab insurgency. They made their intentions clear in January 2012, when a video introduced Sheikh Ahmed Iman Ali as the head of their new Kenyan franchise, to be known as al-Hijra.<sup>6</sup> Later that year, the UN provided details of al-Hijra's membership, its background, and its well-developed recruitment strategy.<sup>7</sup> By early 2013, al-Hijra turned attention to developing the war within Kenya,<sup>8</sup> with Swahili-language videos featuring Kenyan *mujabideen* and addressing the Kenyan *Ummah*. In an audio message of 3 March 2013, Ahmed 'Mukhtar Abu al-Zubayr' Godane for the first time specifically addressed "the Muslims of Kenya", urging them to "boycott the Kenyan elections and wage *Jihad* against the Kenyan military".<sup>9</sup>

The al-Shabaab now waging insurgency in southern Somalia and Kenya is a very different movement than the one that was first born in Mogadishu. As Hansen, Marchal, and Menkhaus have documented, al-Shabaab's internal politics have been tumultuous, with long-running disagreements between clan factions, between 'nationalists' and 'internationalists', and among the *mujabideen*'s foreign fighters.<sup>10</sup> An important moment of crisis came in June 2013, when Godane staged a purge that removed his rivals amongst the higher command. Hansen traces the origins of this purge to the troubles that beset the movement since the famine of 2011, with quarrels amongst the leadership

surrounding the role of its executive council, the *shura*, and the tactics to be adopted.<sup>11</sup> As Bryden<sup>12</sup> confirms, the purge saw the execution of leading commanders at Barawe, along with 200 *mujahideen* of the organisation's *Amniyat* ("secret service").<sup>13</sup>

The purge left al-Shabaab as a smaller but more coherent movement, focused on a new and still emerging insurgency within Kenya, and – perhaps eventually – moving across all of eastern Africa. Godane's purge does not appear to have been about theology or ideology, but about restructuring and survival. It has created a more extreme al-Shabaab, prepared to use violence in a less discerning manner beyond Somalia<sup>14</sup> – vividly to be seen in the "hit-and-run" insurgency al-Shabaab is now deploying.<sup>15</sup> Crucially, in transferring this to north-eastern and coastal Kenya, al-Shabaab's actions already indicate that the impact of individual attacks will be as important as their number.<sup>16</sup> Even following the death of Godane in the American strike of September 2014, the movement remains a potent force.<sup>17</sup>

This article considers the implications of al-Shabaab's Kenyan insurgency. Three questions are asked: First, how should we understand of the place of the clan in al-Shabaab's mobilisation? Second, how will al-Shabaab's advocacy of *jihadi* theology adapt to the Kenya context? In answer to both these questions, we find that al-Shabaab is flexible and adaptable, and that neither clan affiliations nor the divisions of Islam are barriers to the movement's wider support in Kenya. Our third question concerns the insurgency itself: we ask how readily al-Shabaab can recruit from amongst a wider Kenyan *Ummah*? The answer here is alarming, for we suggest that the movement is already accomplished in achieving exactly this, and that it will find a ready pool of potential recruits among Kenya's disaffected Muslims. Any complacent notion that as a Somali organisation, al-Shabaab is ill-suited to this new insurgency is simply misguided. This is illustrated in our concluding section, which considers the attacks mounted in Kenya's coastal and north-eastern districts since June 2014 as indicative of the character of al-Shabaab's emerging insurgency.

## **Clans – primordial or modern?**

Anthropologists typically describe Somali clan membership and sub-clan division as being a 'segmentary lineage model'. It is predominately through this conceptual

understanding that all the major catastrophic events in Somalia over the past two decades have been interpreted: in blunt terms, the ‘segmentary lineage model’ is viewed as having fomented, and to some extent consolidated, conflict.<sup>18</sup> Critical to understanding how the ‘segmentary lineage model’ applies in Somalia are two other related factors: firstly, the definition of lineage relationships solely through the male line; and secondly, the importance of blood contracts (known to the Somali as *diya*). Both features have been presented as contingent to conflict in Somalia.

For Lewis, still most widely read and influential among all scholars of Somalia, the most pervasive organisational principle in Somali society is patrilineality. Lewis sees this as a timeless and unchanging feature, insisting that these ties have remained obdurately relevant despite the influence of modern economics, nationalism, and urban migration.<sup>19</sup> This reifies the clan as the key mediator of affiliation and agency. According to Lewis, *Xeer* helps to delineate the limits of solidarity in the Somali social system. *Diya* lies at the heart of this, being for Lewis the central function of *Xeer*. *Diya* arrangements specify which family members will benefit from blood compensation should a relative be killed.<sup>20</sup> The Somali segmentary lineage model thus consists of strong patrilineal linkages, firm clan allegiances and enforceable blood contracts (*diya*). This model has been frequently used to explain the origin of conflict in Somalia,<sup>21</sup> most commonly visible in media reportage that tends to invoke the primordial and bestial character of Somali society.<sup>22</sup>

However, other writers reject such ‘primordialism’, instead promoting a dynamic, responsive and changing model of Somali society. Abdi Samatar is among these. Commenting on analysis of the fall of Siad Barre in 1992, Samatar resents the assertion that the ‘clanism’ witnessed in Somalia then bears any resemblance to the systems that preceded colonialism. According to Samatar, *Xeer* was in practice a comprehensive system of natural law, encompassing social relations far beyond the blood contracts emphasised by Lewis. In this representation, many clans (especially in southern Somalia) shared an agro-pastoralist lifestyle that necessitated they work together to combat harsh conditions.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, Samatar suggests that in this evolving system, productivity was key to political power:

‘In fact, those who were not productive, and consequently unable to care for their households, had no standing in the community, let alone the ability to command any authority. In other words, being a competent pastoral manager

or a good peasant was a necessary prerequisite for any leadership post'<sup>24</sup>

For Samatar, then, there is no comparison between traditional Somali culture of which clans were a significant but interrelated element, and the situation today where clan allegiance has become divorced from the shared sense of responsibility and order to which this system was once intrinsically linked. Samatar's argument explicitly recognises that Somali society has been in the process of significant social change since at least the mid-nineteenth century, driven by increasing pastoral mobility, the incorporation of agriculturalists, and (latterly) greater sedentarisation and urbanisation.<sup>25</sup> These are processes and trends that clearly emerge in the excellent historical work of Cassanelli and others.<sup>26</sup>

In addressing this apparent separation of clan from other constituent elements of traditional Somali culture, Samatar points to the rise of the political movement for independence in the 1950s, as a key influence on the restructuring and heightened importance of clans. He argues that the clan system provided an easily accessible platform for an emerging political class to organise, mobilise and motivate. All politicians were anti-colonialist and all were nationalist: ideological differences were absent. Clan became the basis for establishing a political constituency – the building-block in constructing a support base for political action.<sup>27</sup> As Siad Barre promoted the nationalist state, the politics of mobilisation and resource allocation thus turned clans into political entities that they had never been before.<sup>28</sup>

This explanation has great merit in understanding the political modalities apparent in Somalia since 1991.<sup>29</sup> Government resource allocations disappeared in 1991, only to be replaced by revenues available from external sources. Where the political class once competed for government largesse, they now sought to control external funding channels and local economic opportunities through mobilising clan affiliations and loyalties. This patronage politics facilitated by clan is bemoaned by Somalis, but also tacitly supported by them. Appeals to nationalistic or religious unity are limited by this fact. To outsiders, the configurations that mobilise this system can seem purposefully opaque: but their complexities are defined by modern patronage, **not** the logics of 'traditional' society.<sup>30</sup> The clue to clan affiliations therefore lies in the local political economy within which they compete.<sup>31</sup> Gunther Schlee has illustrated what this means in practice through a study of the interwoven but contested forms of law that operate in

Somalia – *xeer*, sharia, and state. He shows that although *diya* payments (blood-contracts) have been standardised at set rates, in practice payments vary widely according to the power relations of the opposed clans. In one case Schlee describes, a lesser, weak clan received only a single camel in compensation from a powerful partner clan for an undisputed murder of a young girl.<sup>32</sup>

Another writer who advocates the modernist view, Besteman, describes clan-dependent depictions of Somalis as ‘cartoon-like images of primordial man: unable to break out of their destructive spiral of ancient clan rivalries, loyalties and bloodshed’.<sup>33</sup> Through a detailed study southern Somalia’s Goshu, Besteman highlights the importance of racialized status, of regional identities, and the control of resources and markets as key contributory factors in the troubles that emerged after 1991.<sup>34</sup> Her analysis demotes lineage, clan and blood-ties as influences on Somali social stability, instead finding the cleavages shaped by race, class, region, status, occupation and language to be more significant. This is not to suggest that clans, lineage and *xeer* associations are unimportant, but rather to indicate that they are frequently dominated and trumped by other forces.<sup>35</sup> This broader view of Somalia’s social institutions and cultural norms finds favour with other scholars also: Little<sup>36</sup> and Simons,<sup>37</sup> for example, again both writing principally about southern Somalia, have highlighted the importance of a variety of social structures beyond the clan. Bakonyi’s longitudinal study of the limited success of the Rahanweyn Resistance Army (RRA) in south-western Somalia is another that illustrates this plurality and flexibility of old and new cultural apparatus.<sup>38</sup> In agreement with Schlee, Bakonyi describes the co-presence of *xeer*, shari’a and state legal systems. Similarly, in matters of administration, the RRA re-established colonial structures, such as District Commissioners, alongside traditional clan elders in towns, but retained regional control through support from Ethiopia. When the group gained local legitimacy by providing security, leadership positions and clan representation were still heavily influenced by the elders in each town. Crucially, Bakonyi shows the pragmatic balance of ‘primordial’ factors (clan, blood compensation, traditional law) with ‘modern’ elements (state-sponsored clanship and clientelist leadership).

In summary, then, although academic discourse has disputed the dominance of ‘primordial’ and ‘modernist’ interpretations as if they are alternatives, the social practices they describe exist side by side. An understanding of clan affiliation - and the

responsibilities that come with it - is essential in comprehending the violence that has existed in Somalia since the fall of the Barre government: but while elements of traditional *Xeer* and *Diya* practices are still present in the current clan system, these and other elements of traditional Somali culture have been eroded since the 1960s, and the clan relations that exist now are not mediated by the normative prescriptions of the past. Clans and patrilineality have transformed to reflect a broad set of influences prevailing in the current political economy that work upon and through clan structures: nowhere has this happened more than in southern Somalia and the neighbouring borderlands of Kenya. Thus, clan affiliation does not hamper al-Shabaab: as Bruton and Williams note for southern Somalia, “Al-Shabaab’s leadership ... constructed a very careful strategy of assessing local clan power dynamics, which they tried to manipulate in order to negotiate their entry into new territory.”<sup>39</sup>

### **Islam – ‘a veil lightly worn’**

Somalis stand apart in Kenya in many ways, but since 9/11 religion has been seen as the variable that matters most. With the rise of al-Shabaab, Somali Islam is associated with radical fundamentalism. This is a dramatic distortion of the prevailing social reality. The role of religion interacts with clan structure, nationalism and Islamic unity, defining the possibilities and limitations of fundamentalism in Somalia.<sup>40</sup> Religion is regularly presented as a feature of a united Somali culture. In order to address this assumption, we must firstly ask to what degree there is a common perception of Islam in Somalia, and what potential there is for a shared religious viewpoint to provide a basis for political action?<sup>41</sup>

Islam in eastern Africa has been thoroughly studied over many years,<sup>42</sup> with a focus since the late 1990s on the extent and character of “radicalism.”<sup>43</sup> This quest to identify radical Islam has sometimes been misleading, often highlighting apparent international connections whilst not fully representing the complexities of local Islamic practice.<sup>44</sup> Contrary to much of the media coverage of Harakat al-Shabaab, Menkhaus points out that popular practice of Somali Islam is far from fundamentalist and is best thought of as ‘a veil lightly worn’<sup>45</sup>. He reminds us that women have traditionally not been veiled; *xeer* customary law has superseded *shari’a*; veneration of saints is still a key part of religious practice; Somali politics has tended to be secular; and that Somalis are



not scrupulous in their religious observance. For the most part, the exigencies of Somali pastoral life have ensured that pragmatism has ruled over religious doctrine.<sup>46</sup>

But deeper history in Somalia is not necessarily a good guide to how things are now. Recent events have dramatically reshaped the politics of Islam, just as they have the clan. Importantly, it must be recognised that Somali Islam and its related cultural components often act contrary to the force of imported forms of Islamism, although ill-conceived foreign interventions have tended to enable and justify increasingly fundamentalist views. By the late 1980s, Islamic study groups and Muslim Brotherhood cells were active in Mogadishu and around the country.<sup>47</sup> As Barre's government finally collapsed, and armed factions struggled for key resources, these cells attempted to gain territory. Writing before the expansion of the Islamic courts in 2006, Menkhaus and de Waal both used the example of the Islamist occupation of Luuq in order to ask what might happen under strict Islamic rule should a wider fundamentalist authority be established?<sup>48</sup> Islamist control in Luuq witnessed the banning of khat and tobacco, while women were forced to wear veils.<sup>49</sup> Security improved dramatically, and NGOs worked in Luuq because it was safe. However, the new Islamist administration ran into difficulties when the 'outsiders' in Luuq's local authority – members of clans drawn there by affiliation to political Islam – were challenged by the locally dominant clan, the Marehan. Menkhaus highlights the fact that the fundamentalist movement in Luuq was forced to deal with precisely the same challenges posed by the modern clan structure as do secular attempts at centralisation across the country.<sup>50</sup>

The imposition of forms of shari'a law and the administration of Islamic courts featured prominently in Luuq, but Mogadishu has seen the most intense struggles around religious and clan politics. Since the 1990s, a succession of attempts have been launched to establish Islamic courts in Mogadishu, often supported by business interests in the city, but ultimately opposed and undermined by clan politics and the failure to incorporate the key militias.<sup>51</sup> Marchal notes these tensions, but observes a growing accommodation with clan interests among those who wish to see shari'a law imposed. Al-Barakat owner Ahmed Nuur Ali Jima'ale, provided funding for the courts initiative in the late 1990s and was backed by many other businessmen.<sup>52</sup> Far from being exclusionary in focus, the Islamic courts movement in Mogadishu sought to build support among the different Muslim groups including the Islamists of *Al-Itihaad* and

other *Salafis*, but also including smaller Sufi groups.<sup>53</sup> With the financial support of businesses and the backing of religious groups, the Islamic Courts movement was able to bring vastly improved security, thus gaining ‘performance legitimacy.’<sup>54</sup>

These courts were initially absorbed into the Transitional National Government (TNG) created after 2000, a move that alienated the Islamist faction in the movement but at the same time weakened the courts politically. Following 9/11, a new Mogadishu government, inaugurated 2004, explicitly excluded those of an Islamist persuasion.<sup>55</sup> This exclusionary policy, inspired by external pressure on Mogadishu, rapidly strengthened Somali desires to minimise foreign influence and interests and unifying disparate clans and Islamic factions alike.<sup>56</sup> As a consequence, President Abdullaahi Yuusuf Ahmed swiftly came to be seen as a puppet of the west, his government rapidly losing its legitimacy.<sup>57</sup> This failure led directly to the resurgence of the Islamic courts movement in a more militant incarnation after 2004. Islamist militias emerged that were keen to use the Courts as a political platform.<sup>58</sup>

Until this time, the extreme views of the nascent al-Shabaab had prevented any serious alliance with those seeking to build consensus through the Union of Islamic Courts,<sup>59</sup> but this changed in February 2006, when fighting broke out between the Union of Islamic Courts and the factions supported by US and Ethiopian interests. Al-Shabaab now came to the rescue of those defending Somali political identity.<sup>60</sup> During the 4-months that followed, al-Shabaab cemented their own reputation by winning territory and acting efficiently to oppose foreign influence. But upon victory the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) was forced to confront the wide spectrum of political and religious views then represented within al-Shabaab. The Islamist influences that came to the fore saw a harsh and immediate application of *hadith*, while brutal punishments were introduced for actions and behaviours perceived to be against Islam. These actions and their associated rhetoric, including irredentist claims on the Ogaden and calls for global *jihad*, encouraged the USA to back an Ethiopian invasion.<sup>61</sup>

The invasion of December 2006 and the subsequent occupation by Ethiopian forces displaced Islamist influence and al-Shabaab from Mogadishu, but its overriding impact was to unify Somalis against the invaders and their supporters. Although al-Shabaab was then targeted by US Special Forces and lost many of its leading members as

a consequence,<sup>62</sup> they emerged from the violence with their political agenda reinforced and affirmed. The invasion by foreign forces had given cause to *jihad*, opening a political space for the strengthening of fundamentalist political Islam.<sup>63</sup> As Hansen argues, at this stage ‘democracy, nationalism, Marxism and clanism had been tried out and yielded little for the Somalis’: political Islam offered stability and honesty, in the face of war and corruption brought about by the Ethiopians and the TFG.<sup>64</sup> Within the country, many less belligerent members of the Union of Islamic Courts who had worked with the TFG retreated into criticism of the invasion, while al-Shabaab and its supporters proclaimed that their ideology and mandate was the right approach to the problem. This split the factions that had previously united under the Courts banner. Hence, the Ethiopian invasion dramatically weakened the mandate of moderates, forging unity around al-Shabaab.<sup>65</sup> But the invasion also drove al-Shabaab out of Mogadishu and into southern Somalia, where it would established a strong economic base in Kismayu, extending influence up the Juba valley and into the countryside of Jubaland and Gosha, often absorbing and co-opting local militias in the process.<sup>66</sup>

The message of this experience seems clear enough. Though AMISOM has gradually undermined and displaced al-Shabaab from many of its southern strongholds since 2011, the political entrepreneurs who mobilised clan issues to subvert Islamist control in Luuq,<sup>67</sup> and the shari’a courts in Mogadishu,<sup>68</sup> are likely to re-emerge once the external threat has been removed and al-Shabaab loses its rallying point. This perspective on the difficulties of sustaining an Islamic ideology in Somalia’s politics has even confronted al-Qaeda, whose operatives have bemoaned the difficulties of the clan and cultural issues that permeate Somalia.<sup>69</sup> Accounts of al-Shabaab’s internal politics reaffirm these views: the movement has repeatedly splintered as key leaders separate to pursue narrower political, ideological or economic interests,<sup>70</sup> or as the international cadres of the movement assert themselves against those with a narrower, local perspective<sup>71</sup> - as happened once again in June 2013.<sup>72</sup>

A further problem exists for al-Shabaab in countering and, where possible, co-opting non-clan based groups.<sup>73</sup> Small in scale, and often short-lived politically, these movements all distance themselves from al-Shabaab, usually because of perceived differences in Islamic ideologies. *Hizbul Islam* is the most important of these in southern Somalia, an insurgent group that is itself wrought with splits and political differences.

Elements of *Hizbul Islam* fought against al-Shabaab in Kismayu, Hiran and Luuq, but eventually they were defeated and re-amalgamated into al-Shabaab. Overcoming and assimilating such forces speaks to al-Shabaab's strength, but other militias with less religious commonality have been more resolute in their opposition. *Ablul Sunna wa'l Jama'ah*, for example, composed of an amalgam of hard-line and moderate Sufis, was formed in reaction to al-Shabaab's destruction of sacred pilgrimage sites of Somali saints. *Ablul Sunna wa'l Jama'ah* appeals to the historical character of Somali Islam, rejecting globalising tendencies. They achieved notable military victories over al-Shabaab in 2011, and having given support to the TFG many of their members then attained powerful positions in the government.<sup>74</sup>

Radical Islam in Somalia has its peculiarly local manifestations, as well as being part of wider global *jihad*. Thus, while al-Shabaab successfully portrayed the old TFG as a puppet of Ethiopia and the West, they continued to receive backing from locals and their clan leaders who perceived an existential national threat. It is invasion and the perceived foreign threat that drives imported and extreme Wahabbism and moderate and culturally relevant Somali Sufism together.

### **Al-Shabaab recruitment**

We have shown that the collapse of state institutions in Somalia at the end of the 1980s consolidated an already apparent trend toward new forms of political and economic mobilisation that had been evident since the 1960s. Older and more traditional cultural drivers of affiliation were not dismissed or rejected, but became less significant as political leaders competed with one another to secure scarce resources and develop sustainable enterprises in a hostile and unstable political environment. Somalia's state failure thus accelerated the trend toward 'modernist' approaches to mobilisation and affiliations.<sup>75</sup>

What role, then, do clan and Islamic identity have in al-Shabaab's militia recruitment in southern Somalia, and, by extension, in neighbouring Kenya? Again, in answering this question an awareness of the trajectory of developments since the early 1990s is instructive. The path-breaking study is surely Compagnon, who emphasised the critical importance of clan in the formation of the many militia that rapidly formed as

Barre's state collapsed. Linking this to the use of the clan system in the military organisation of the Barre state, Compagnon also noted how the clan became a place of 'retreat' for the political elite. Writing in 1998, Compagnon identified more than 20 clan-based armed groups that had been active since 1991. But these groups were by no means fixed: "clan-based political support is constantly shifting", asserted Compagnon. Clan was the basic unit of engagement in the formation of a militia, but for Compagnon, "lineage polarisation is a product of competing enterprises and not their cause."<sup>76</sup> "With the emergence of new factions and the decay of others," he concluded, "the interplay of clan-ism and political entrepreneurship remains the creative force behind factionalism."<sup>77</sup>

Struggles were as often within clans as between them, especially revolving around internal competition within larger clans, such as Hawiye and Darood.<sup>78</sup> Menkhaus interprets this as a longer-term process in which conflict devolves to "descending levels of clan lineage" – that is to say that sub-clans and sub-sub-clans increasingly become the units of operation for armed groups. By 2003, for example, the Rahanweyn were fighting among themselves in the south, as were the Marehan in Gedo region. Menkhaus notes that this devolution of conflict to lower lineage levels meant that warfare became more localised and more random, but also shorter-lived and less deadly.<sup>79</sup> By 2003, factions were profiting less from war and banditry and more from commerce and service businesses:<sup>80</sup> there were pressures to contain violence, and the capacity of clans to 'discipline' one another by enforcing traditional sanctions remained important.<sup>81</sup> Thus, 'primordial' and 'modern' practices continued side by side.

To illustrate this, Le Sage describes how local interests shaped clan factionalism around Mogadishu before 2002. Here, local business interests supported the TNG, driven by a small clique of Hawiye traders, who were all in some way linked to "lucrative sectors of food aid transport, remittance banking, telecommunications, construction, or management of small beach ports near Mogadishu".<sup>82</sup> The symbiosis between politics and economic interests for this group included the provision of 'security services' (ie militias) in support of the TNG: a core group of Hawiye sub-clan leaders collaborated in these businesses and services.<sup>83</sup>

This pattern of local interests shifted once again from 2006, with the occupying forces of Ethiopia generating a reaction among Somali clans that restored greater unity

and led to consolidation. This was both a political reaction against foreign incursion, and a rally to religion – with the defence of Islam being stressed in a resurgence of Sufi movements.<sup>84</sup> Prior to this invasion, because of the restoration of law and order in and around Mogadishu and the improvement of conditions for commerce, the Islamic Courts Union had won wide support from war-weary Somalis even though they did not embrace radical Islam. But this improvement in security was then undermined by squabbles within the ICU, with Hawiye clan interests being pitted against the politics of both Islamist moderates and the ‘confrontational *jihadists*’ and *Salafis* of the al-Shabaab militia.<sup>85</sup> Radical religion and clan interests did not sit easily together, but the immediacy of the Ethiopia threat drove a growing number of younger recruits into the arms of the militants such as al-Shabaab regardless of clan affiliations.

Roland Marchal provides the most extensive discussion of al-Shabaab recruitment, his findings echoing the view that neither clan nor theology are as important as we may suppose.<sup>86</sup> His account stresses the importance of securing young recruits, but of the avoidance of doctrinal teachings at an early stage. Disaffected and dislocated youth – those orphaned, or with displaced families – feature prominently. It has often been argued that al-Shabaab exploits clan divisions to gain recruits, Marchal tells us, particularly by taking the part of lesser sub-clans or sub-sub-clans – what have been termed ‘minority’ clans. Marchal challenges the negative implications of this, pointing out that such clans are also often those who struggle to capitalise in Somalia’s war economy. Disadvantage and marginalisation again emerge as key elements in al-Shabaab’s relationship with such clans; and even within larger clans, such as the Rahanweyn, al-Shabaab recruitment has succeeded in drawing in those who are excluded from mainstream patronage and support. And in terms of religion, Marchal reminds us that in war-torn Somalia many people turn to religion for solace in troubled times: among al-Shabaab’s affiliates are many “born again *jihadis*” – young men of no particular education or religious persuasion, but men cast adrift by the dislocations of war and looking for a spiritual anchor. Lastly, though coercion has been used by al-Shabaab at times of crises,<sup>87</sup> it is not a strategy they generally advocate.<sup>88</sup> Overall, then, Marchal’s account of al-Shabaab recruitment tell us that they adopt a flexible and responsive strategy, taking recruits from where they can best be found, and placing social and economic factors above clan and religion.

It is also helpful to consider how this might relate to the wider literature on recruitment to radical and militant Somali politics internationally. This body of work has given rise to concerns about the strengthening place of Somalia in global *jihad*.<sup>89</sup> Although the key findings remain deeply ambiguous, three central points can be noted:

- Firstly, it is broadly agreed that there is a general perception among radicalised populations in eastern Africa that Islam is under attack by the West.<sup>90</sup> Commentators argue over the centrality of this perception – whether it is a recurrent theme or a causal logic – but it seems to be an assumption that applies very strongly to the Somali case, and is strengthening in Kenya as the state security forces there mount indiscriminate assaults against their own Somali and Muslim citizens.<sup>91</sup>
- Second, it is agreed that education, wealth, and degree of integration are all key factors in determining affiliations to radicalisation and global *jihad*: but, there is dispute as to how these factors operate. Is it affluence or poverty that causes Muslims in eastern Africa to take up arms? Is global *jihad* more attractive to the uneducated, or to the educational elite? Are Muslims more likely to take up the fundamentalist cause if they have been too well integrated into host societies, and therefore their identity diminished, or do they radicalise because they have been excluded by host societies, as many commentators have long argued is the case in Kenya?<sup>92</sup> Marchal's evidence suggests that exclusion is the key factor.<sup>93</sup>
- Third, is recruitment to the radical cause driven by dispositional or situational factors? The emphasis on profiling techniques in international counter-terrorism has led to implicit assumptions that a disposition toward activism can be identified, while more variable situational factors (geographic location, the operation of kinship networks, neighbourhood factors) have not been as thoroughly investigated – perhaps precisely because they require a deeper understanding of cultural and social factors. In eastern Africa, and especially Kenya, these situational factors appear especially significant and it is these that al-Shabaab now seems determined to exploit.<sup>94</sup>

Even the best evidence collected on behalf of western intelligence agencies in eastern Africa now tends to confirm the view that cultural and religious factors may be less important in mobilisation than is socio-economic disadvantage or political exclusion. The Congressional Research Service's 'Countering Terrorism in East Africa: The US

Response<sup>95</sup> provides a cogent summary of these points, with specific reference to the Somali case. The report finds that among the socio-economic factors, both al-Shabaab and Al Qaeda use the ‘victimisation narrative’ to recruit and sustain support. Within Somalia, this focuses upon the ‘foreign invader’ rallying call. In Kenya, this works by articulating a “sense of social, cultural, political and economic exclusion” felt by the country’s Muslims.<sup>96</sup> The report states that in the places where the Muslim population is concentrated, social services have historically been weaker than elsewhere in the country. Somalis in Kenya typically express frustrations emerging from a lack of job opportunities and a sense of exclusion from the mainstream political economy. Male youth are especially disaffected, a factor identified as important for al-Shabaab recruitment in particular.<sup>97</sup> Where economic deprivation is most extreme, as in the towns close to the Somalia border where large refugee communities have congregated, recruitment is linked to the provision of some kind of social service and basic protection. In these borderlands the provision of social goods can be a key incentive for youth to join radical movements such as al-Shabaab,<sup>98</sup> especially when recruits might be paid anything between USD 60 and USD 200 per month by the movement. Income at this level can allow recruits to provide for extended family members.<sup>99</sup>

There are also connections between global drivers of radicalism and more local factors in the perceptions of recruits. By linking al-Shabaab’s struggle in Somalia to a broader war, and engaging the narratives of ‘occupation’ and ‘liberation’ in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan, Marchal notes that recruits have been encouraged to see themselves as part of a global insurrection.<sup>100</sup> In eastern Africa this can be linked to the history of Muslim radicalism since the 1980s,<sup>101</sup> the struggles against foreign incursions (Ethiopian and now Kenya), and the glorious history of Islamic rebellion against colonialism.<sup>102</sup>

Domestic counter-terrorism tactics are also recognised as having too often targeted and alienated Muslim communities in eastern Africa.<sup>103</sup> With both the Ethiopian and Kenyan governments accused of human rights abuses against Muslims in general and Somali Muslims in particular, this fosters a robust popular politics that views Somalia and the Somali as ‘victims’.<sup>104</sup> These points are developed in a more comprehensive review of motivations for extremist violence provided in two USAID documents, which highlight the importance of social networks in drawing youth into violent politics, often through



connections to radicalised preachers at particular mosques, or through family members who are themselves already radicalised.<sup>105</sup>

## **Conclusion – reinvention in Kenya**

This analysis has alarming implications in light of al-Shabaab's declaration that it is now taking the struggle to its enemy, and mounting a campaign to mobilise the *Ummah* of Kenya. There is nothing in al-Shabaab's recent history to suggest that clan affiliations in Kenya will prove a barrier to recruitment: their pragmatic and modern approach to clan politics is well adapted to the situation in north-eastern Kenya,<sup>106</sup> where a complex mosaic of Ogadeni sub-clans and sub-sub-clans predominate – in many ways resembling the situation they have previously confronted in Jubaland. And, as in Jubaland, there are many non-Somali groups, many of them Muslim, in Kenya's north-eastern and coastal regions who may find good reason to align themselves with an insurrection. Nor are the sectarian divisions amongst Muslims likely to be a barrier to al-Shabaab, especially if it can use its Kenya affiliate al-Hijra to soften the edges of *Salafist* doctrine in the short-term in order to wage war more effectively.

Al-Hijra is of course merely a means to take the war to Kenya, but the foundations of radicalism on which it is built lie in the alienation, disaffection and dissent of Kenya's Muslim community. Since at least the early 1990s, radicalisation in Kenya has been well-documented.<sup>107</sup> While Muslim politicians have been incorporated within Kenya's main political coalitions over the past decade, this has been done as a calculus of electoral politics and power-brokering, and with no understanding of the differences in Muslim doctrine or belief: there is little evidence to suggest that Islamic politics is understood or accommodated in Nairobi. As Paul Gifford has documented, the Christian ethos of Kenya's politics is strikingly Pentecostal and often openly hostile to Muslims.<sup>108</sup>

In this context, al-Shabaab's sophisticated public relations wing<sup>109</sup> has already mounted a highly effective media campaign promoting the movement in Kenya.<sup>110</sup> Most striking is their propaganda magazine *Gaidi Mtaani* ('Terrorist on the Street'). This Swahili publication, with the occasional English language item, is explicitly targeted at the Kenyan *Ummah*. Launched three months after al-Shabaab declared its intentions to

mount war within Kenya, four issues have so far been produced, the most recent in November 2013.<sup>111</sup> The articles are well written, and show a good understanding of Kenya's history and the particular concerns of its Muslim population. The magazine provides a powerful insight into the organisation's public relations mission, revealing important aspects of al-Shabaab's recruitment and propaganda strategy. Professionally produced, with multiple illustrations and eye-catching slogans, *Gaidi Mtaani* is visually powerful and clearly intended to appeal to a younger audience.

On the ground, the shape of al-Shabaab's insurgency in Kenya became clear between May and July 2014, in the wake of the attempted "crackdown" by the security forces in Operation Usalama Watch. Launched in early April, this resulted in the round-up of over 4,000 Muslim "suspects", mostly of Somali origin. The arrests appeared random and unregulated, and were accompanied by the mistreatment and abuse of suspects, the stealing of their personal property, and widespread bribery and corruption in the checking of their documentation. The ethnic targeting of Somalis, and the victimisation of Muslims were the two dominant aspects of the operation. Within a few days of its conclusion, in mid-May, al-Shabaab resumed its bombing and grenade campaign across Kenya, with an attack on a Nairobi market that killed ten and left 70 others injured.<sup>112</sup>

There then followed a cluster of attacks in rural coastal areas over June and July 2014, suggesting the emergence of a new and dangerous phase in al-Shabaab's insurgency. This began on 15 June 2014, when the prosperous rural village of Mpeketoni, in Lamu County, was the scene of a bloody massacre.<sup>113</sup> The *mujahideen* commandeered vehicles on the main road between Witu and Lamu Town, driving into Mpeketoni and blocking the roads before beginning the murders. Burning buildings and vehicles, the gang chanted Islamic slogans and selected only non-Muslims as their victims. The assault left 48 villagers dead. Al-Shabaab's acknowledged their responsibility for the massacre, and then conducted further attacks over the next month. On 6 July, two further coastal villages, Hindi and Gamba, were attacked in a similar fashion to the assault on Mpeketoni. Here, the victims were identified and their hands bound behind their backs before their throats were slit. Al Shabaab again was quick to claim responsibility.<sup>114</sup> Then, on 19 July, in an assault clearly calculated to have maximum impact on what is an important tourist route, a bus was halted on the road

between Malindi and Lamu and sprayed by fire from automatic weapons, killing more than 30 passengers. This brought the death toll at the coast to over 100 in a period of only one month.<sup>115</sup>

Mpeketoni had been chosen for first attack because it was a predominantly Christian village, at the centre of a rural settlement scheme set up in the 1970s to accommodate Kikuyu from Kenya's Central Highlands.<sup>116</sup> Al-Shabaab's statement acknowledging the attack accused the Christians of having "taken" a Muslim village.<sup>117</sup> Hindi and Gamba were, similarly, villages with extensive Kikuyu settler populations, a large number of Christians, and significant church communities. The attacks have raised fears of worsening relations between religious communities, but also of ethnic targeting by al-Shabaab. Given its recent history of ethnic violence following the elections of December 2007, Kenyans feel themselves to be particularly vulnerable to the manipulation of local politics in this manner.

This was especially pertinent when Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta countered al-Shabaab's claims following the Mpeketoni attack by producing evidence that local political rivalries lay behind the incident.<sup>118</sup> Mpeketoni surely was a troubled location, with local squabbles around electoral politics in 2013 and deep concerns of local land-grabbing and speculation prompted by the plans to develop the nearby port of Lamu.<sup>119</sup> It may also have been prey to the activities of the Mombasa Republican Council, a political group who have been advocating coastal secession.<sup>120</sup> These factors were present at Mpeketoni, and may well have played a part in what happened; but it was the *mujahideen* of Harakat al-Shabaab who carried out the attack and it was the *jibadi* movement that selected this target - precisely because it allowed the melding of local politics with the broader aims of al-Shabaab. And in this combination lies the danger for Kenya: an al-Shabaab that can skilfully manipulate local politics to its own advantage in north-eastern and coastal Kenya, as it once did so effectively in Jubaland, will prove a very difficult foe for the Kenya security forces to contain.<sup>121</sup>

Further evidence of the escalation of al-Shabaab's Kenyan insurgency emerged from early November 2014. The month began with unsuccessful terror attacks on a government police post in Malindi and on the Nyali military barracks in Mombasa.<sup>122</sup> Amid uncertainty as to whether al-Shabaab may have conspired with the Mombasa

Republican Council in these attacks, security raids on suspected radical mosques in Mombasa followed, with weapons and explosives being found. Of the 376 arrested in these raids, police have charged 158 with being members of al-Shabaab. The closing of the mosques provoked protests in Mombasa, where gangs of Muslim youths rampaged through the streets waving al-Shabaab's black flags.<sup>123</sup> Next, three chilling attacks revealed the continuing threat that al-Shabaab poses in Kenya's borderlands. First, on 21 November, a Nairobi-bound bus was intercepted by *mujahideen* 8kms south of Mandera. The passengers were segregated by religion, and all of the non-Muslims were shot, most of them teachers on their way home to other parts of Kenya for the Christmas holidays. The incident provoked panic amongst non-Muslim government servants in Mandera, with many of them seeking to leave the town over the next few days.<sup>124</sup> Then, on 3 December, a grenade was thrown into a popular Wajir bar and the patrons were sprayed with gunfire. The attacking *mujahideen* then raided the local police post. Only one person died in this incident, but many more were injured.<sup>125</sup> The third attack came the next day, when 20 of al-Shabaab's *mujahideen* mounted a night raid on a stone quarry 15km from Mandera. This time the target was the Kikuyu workers, mostly from Nyeri and Nakuru. Some 36 men died, four of whom were beheaded.<sup>126</sup>

In response to this spate of deadly violence, Kenya's Minister of Interior and the Commissioner of Police both stepped down from office, the government announcing a major reorganisation of the security ministries that must face the al-Shabaab threat. For the first time, Kenya's government spokespersons acknowledged they were a country at war, that the war was now being fought on Kenya soil, and that its resolution might take a very long time.<sup>127</sup> This is not how Kenya intended their invasion of southern Somalia to turn out. Far from being swept into the sea, Harakat al-Shabaab Mujahideen has transformed itself into a regional insurgency: it has reinvented itself within Kenya's borders, and now presents a formidable threat to the country's over-stretched security forces.<sup>128</sup> The challenge now is to halt the spread of the insurgency amongst Kenya's general Muslim population.

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## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Maruf and Joseph. "Sources on final days of Al-Shabaab's Godane"
- <sup>2</sup> Barnes and Hassan, "The rise and fall", 151-60.
- <sup>3</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement" is the most important source on al-Shabaab's history, esp. 10-23. See also Hansen, *Al-Shabaab in Somalia*, ch 2.
- <sup>4</sup> Open Society Foundations, *Counterterrorism and Human Rights*.
- <sup>5</sup> For a full account of the AMISOM mission, see Bruton and Williams, *Counter-insurgency in Somalia*.
- <sup>6</sup> *Critical Threats*, "Linda Nchi – Timeline"; Nzes, "Al-Hijra", 24-26.
- <sup>7</sup> UN, *Report of the Monitoring Group 2012*, annex 3.1.
- <sup>8</sup> UN, *Report of the Monitoring Group 2013*, 15.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 80-81.
- <sup>10</sup> Hansen, *Al-Shabaab in Somalia*; Marchal, "A tentative assessment," 381-404; Menkhaus, "The crisis in Somalia", 357-390; Anzalone, "Al-Shabaab's tactical and media strategies", 12-16; Pantucci, "Bilal al-Berjawi", 14-17.
- <sup>11</sup> Hansen, "An in-depth look", 9-12.
- <sup>12</sup> Bryden, *Reinvention of Al-Shabaab*, 3-6.
- <sup>13</sup> Menkhaus, "Al-Shabaab's capabilities", 5.
- <sup>14</sup> Bryden, *Reinvention of Al-Shabaab*, 2.
- <sup>15</sup> Gartenstein-Ross and Appel, "Al-Shabaab's insurgency."
- <sup>16</sup> Anderson, *Why Mpeketoni*, 1-6; Branch and Mosley. "Why East Africa's borders are blowing up", 1-4; ICG, *Kenya: Al-Shabaab*, 4-5.
- <sup>17</sup> Anderson and McKnight, "Kenya at war", 8-11
- <sup>18</sup> Bestemann, *Unravelling Somalia*.
- <sup>19</sup> Lewis, *Blood and Bone*.
- <sup>20</sup> Marchal, *A Provocative Few Remarks*.
- <sup>21</sup> Schlee, *Approaches to Identity*.
- <sup>22</sup> See Gettelman, "New Somali government", for a fatalist approach to clanism; see Blair, "Somalia: analysis of a failed state", for the conflation of 'clan' and 'warlord'; and Dowden, "Internal and external", for war as a 'continuation of Somali tradition'.
- <sup>23</sup> Samatar, "Destruction", 630.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, 639.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 627
- <sup>26</sup> Cassanelli, *The Shaping of Somali Society*; Barnes, "U dhashay Ku dhashay", 487-98; Bemath, "The Sayyid and Saalihiya Tariga", 33-47; Brons, *Society, Security, Sovereignty*; Samatar, *In the Shadow*.
- <sup>27</sup> Samatar, "Destruction", 635
- <sup>28</sup> Samatar, "Destruction", 636; Menkhaus, "Government without governance", 60; and for an analysis of the origins of state violence against its citizens and the unravelling of the legitimacy of the Somali state see, Menkhaus, "Calm before the storms".
- <sup>29</sup> For a controversial interpretation of the consequences, see Kapteijns, *Clan Cleansing*.
- <sup>30</sup> World Bank, *Conflict in Somalia*.
- <sup>31</sup> Samatar, "Somalia's Post-Conflict Economy".
- <sup>32</sup> Schlee, "Customary law", 258-71.
- <sup>33</sup> Besteman, *Unravelling Somalia*, 4.
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>35</sup> For the debate, see Besteman, "Primordialist blinkers", and Lewis, "Misunderstanding Somalia". See also, Lewis, "Visible and invisible differences", 489-515; Lewis, *Saints and Somalis*.
- <sup>36</sup> Little, *Economy Without a State*.
- <sup>37</sup> Simons, *Networks of Dissolution*.
- <sup>38</sup> Bakonyi, "Authority and administration," 272-90.
- <sup>39</sup> Bruton and Williams, *Counter-Insurgency in Somalia*, 29.
- <sup>40</sup> For the most recent examination, Hansen, *Al-Shabaab in Somalia*.
- <sup>41</sup> This section draws upon Anderson, "Clan identity and Islamic identity", with significant updating.
- <sup>42</sup> For the historiography, see Abdullahi, *Culture and Customs*.
- <sup>43</sup> For the most significant examples: Hansen, *Al Shabaab in Somalia*; Botha, *Assessing the Vulnerability*; Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 24-38; Ndlovu, "The politicization of Muslim organizations", 25-53; Rabasa, *Radical Islam*, 39-70; Vittori, Bremer and Vittori, "Islam in Tanzania and Kenya", 1075-99.
- <sup>44</sup> As exemplified in the best-selling book on Somalia, Fergusson, *The World's Most Dangerous Place*.
- <sup>45</sup> Menkhaus, "Political Islam".
- <sup>46</sup> Abdullahi, *Culture and Customs*.
- <sup>47</sup> Marchal, "A tentative assessment"; Menkhaus, "Political Islam".

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- <sup>48</sup> Menkhaus, "Political Islam"; de Waal, *Islam and its Enemies*.
- <sup>49</sup> On khat, see Anderson et al, *The Khat Controversy*.
- <sup>50</sup> Menkhaus, "Political Islam", 112-13
- <sup>51</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", ch 2; ICG, *Somalia's Islamists*.
- <sup>52</sup> Marchal, "A tentative assessment"; Le Sage, "Somalia: sovereignty disguise."
- <sup>53</sup> ICG, *Counter-terrorism in Somalia*; Menkhaus, "Political Islam"; Le Sage, "Prospects for al-Itihad".
- <sup>54</sup> Menkhaus, "Violent Islamic extremism".
- <sup>55</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 12-14.
- <sup>56</sup> Menkhaus, "The crisis in Somalia", 10; Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 11.
- <sup>57</sup> ICG, *Somalia: To move beyond a failed state*.
- <sup>58</sup> See Marchal, "A tentative assessment"; Marchal, "Warlordism and terrorism"; Menkhaus, "The crisis in Somalia"; and ICG, *Counter-terrorism in Somalia*, for the context.
- <sup>59</sup> Dagne, "Somalia: Current Conditions".
- <sup>60</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 16-17.
- <sup>61</sup> Menkhaus, "Violent Islamic extremism".
- <sup>62</sup> Gordon and Mazzeti, "US used base in Ethiopia".
- <sup>63</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement."
- <sup>64</sup> Hansen, *Al Shabaab in Somalia*, 4.
- <sup>65</sup> Menkhaus, "Violent Islamic extremism".
- <sup>66</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 17-18.
- <sup>67</sup> Menkhaus, "Political Islam".
- <sup>68</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement."
- <sup>69</sup> CTC, *Al Qaida's (Mis)adventures*.
- <sup>70</sup> ICG, *Somalia's Divided Islamists*.
- <sup>71</sup> Hansen, *Al-Shabaab in Somalia*.
- <sup>72</sup> Bryden, *Reinvention of Al-Shabaab*, 3-4; Hansen, "An in-depth look"; Menkhaus, "Al-Shabaab's capabilities".
- <sup>73</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 28.
- <sup>74</sup> ICG, *Somalia's Divided Islamists*; ICG, *Somalia: The Transitional Government*.
- <sup>75</sup> Little, *Economy Without a State* offers the best overview of what this meant in practice. See also, Ahmed, "Banana wars", and Besteman and Cassanelli, *The Struggle for Land*.
- <sup>76</sup> Compagnon, "Somali armed units", 84. See also, Adam, "Somalia: militarism".
- <sup>77</sup> Compagnon, "Somali armed units", 90.
- <sup>78</sup> Menkhaus, "State collapse in Somalia".
- <sup>79</sup> Ibid, 410-11.
- <sup>80</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>81</sup> Marchal, "Mogadiscio dans la guerre civile"; Menkhaus, "State collapse in Somalia", 412.
- <sup>82</sup> Le Sage, "Somalia: sovereignty disguise", 136.
- <sup>83</sup> For the earliest manifestation of these practices, see Marchal, "The Somali post-civil war business class", and Marchal, "Les mooryan de Mogadiscio."
- <sup>84</sup> Menkhaus, "Somalia: they created a desert".
- <sup>85</sup> Barnes and Hassan, "The rise and fall"; Menkhaus, "Somalia: they created a desert", 225. By then, private security was also a major feature: see Hansen, "Private security".
- <sup>86</sup> This paragraph draws upon Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 39-51.
- <sup>87</sup> UN, *Report of the Monitoring Group*, 2013.
- <sup>88</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 40-41.
- <sup>89</sup> Lahoud, "The merger of al-Shabab and Qa'idat al-Jihad", 1-5; Sageman, *Leaderless Jihad Terror Networks*; Harnisch, "Terror Threat from Somalia", 1-3; Rabasa, *Radical Islam*.
- <sup>90</sup> Botha, *Assessing the Vulnerability*; Hassan, "Understanding the drivers", 18-20; Hansen, "Mis-spent youth"; Thordsen, "New Muslim Activism".
- <sup>91</sup> Anderson, *Why Mpeketoni*, 3-4; Hidalgo, "Kenya's worst enemy", 1-3; HRW, "Kenya: halt crackdown against Somalis".
- <sup>92</sup> Lind, "Counter-terrorism", 335-53; Lochery, "Rendering difference visible", 615-39.
- <sup>93</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement", 46-50.
- <sup>94</sup> Nzes, "Terrorist attacks", 13-15; Rabasa, *Radical Islam*; Botha, *Assessing the Vulnerability*; Thordsen, "New Muslim Activism".
- <sup>95</sup> Ploch, *Countering Terrorism in East Africa*.
- <sup>96</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>97</sup> Hansen, "Mis-spent youth"; Botha, *Assessing the Vulnerability of Kenyan Youth*.
- <sup>98</sup> Marchal, "The rise of a jihadi movement"; Le Sage, "Prospects for al-Itihad".

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- <sup>99</sup> Figures from Marchal, “The rise of a jihadi movement”, 42.
- <sup>100</sup> Ibid., 44-45.
- <sup>101</sup> Botha, *Assessing the Vulnerability*, charts this very clearly.
- <sup>102</sup> Samatar, *In the Shadow*; Barnes, “U dhashay, Ku dhashay”.
- <sup>103</sup> Lind, “Counter-terrorism”; CTC, *Al Qaida’s (Mis)adventures*, 7; ICG, *Kenya: Al-Shabaab*, 9-12.
- <sup>104</sup> HRW, *So Much to Fear*; HRW, *Harsh War, Harsh Peace*; Hagmann, *Talking Peace*.
- <sup>105</sup> USAID, *Development Assistance and Counter-Extremism*; USAID, *Guide to the Drivers of Violent Extremism*.
- <sup>106</sup> Schlee, “Customary law”, 258-71.
- <sup>107</sup> Rabasa, *Radical Islam*; Botha, *Assessing the Vulnerability*; and Thordsen, “New Muslim Activism” provide between them a very full historical coverage.
- <sup>108</sup> Gifford, *Christianity, Politics and Public Life*.
- <sup>109</sup> This echoes Marchal’s comments, “The rise of a jihadi movement”, 45.
- <sup>110</sup> Anzalone, “The Nairobi attack”, 1-6; Anzalone, “Al-Shabab’s tactical and media strategies”, 12-16.
- <sup>111</sup> All four issues of *Gaidi Mtaani* are available from <<http://jihadology.net/>>.
- <sup>112</sup> Straziuso, “Bombings Kill 10.” This was typical of other attacks over the previous year: Gartenstein-Ross and Appel, “Al-Shabaab’s insurgency.”
- <sup>113</sup> For a fuller account, see Anderson, *Why Mpeketoni*, 1-4.
- <sup>114</sup> Gettelman, “Gruesome attacks.”
- <sup>115</sup> Al Jazeera Staff, “Al-Shabaab claims deadly bus attack.”
- <sup>116</sup> Ndurya, “How squatters became landowners in Lamu”.
- <sup>117</sup> Abdullahi Boru Halakhe, “To prevent more Mpeketonis”.
- <sup>118</sup> Musumba, “Uhuru blames massacre on tribalism”.
- <sup>119</sup> Government of Kenya, “Flagship Projects: Lamu port and new transport corridor”.
- <sup>120</sup> For the background, see Willis and Gona. “*Pwani C Kenya?*”, 48-71, and Brennan “Lowering the Sultan’s flag”, 831-61.
- <sup>121</sup> ICG, *Kenya: Al-Shabaab*, 5-6.
- <sup>122</sup> Onsarigo, “Detectives probe Nyali barracks raid”; Standard Team, “Details about Nyali barracks attackers”.
- <sup>123</sup> Al Jazeera Staff, “Kenya police stage fresh mosque raid”; BBC Staff, “Kenyan city of Mombasa sees deadly clashes”.
- <sup>124</sup> Otsialo and Hajir, “At least 28 killed in Shabaab attack”; BBC Staff, “Kenya bus attack”.
- <sup>125</sup> Astariko, “One killed, ten hurt in Wajir”.
- <sup>126</sup> Star Reporter, “Al Shabaab militia kills 36.”
- <sup>127</sup> Otsialo, “David Kimaiyo retires”
- <sup>128</sup> Bryden, *Reinvention of al-Shabaab*, 3-4; Hansen, “An in-depth look”, 9-12; Menkhaus, “Al-Shabaab’s capabilities”, 4-9; Williams, “After Westgate”, 908-9.